

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This preliminary amendment is submitted in the above-identified application prior to its initial examination to submit additional claims that more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention.

Support for the foregoing amendments to the claims may be found at pages 4-11 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added to the application as originally filed.

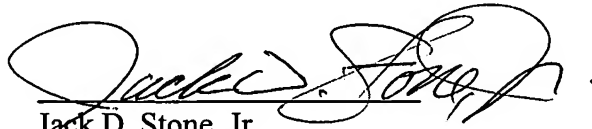
By this amendment, Claims 2 to 23 have been added, resulting in a total of 23 claims, 4 of which are independent claims. Thus, there are 3 claims in excess of 20 claims, and 1 independent claim in excess of 3 independent claims. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount required for payment of the 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 fees for the additional claims, and to credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2032 of Scheef & Stone, L.L.P.

Applicant does not believe any other fees are due; however, in the event that any other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-2032 of Scheef & Stone, L.L.P.

Favorable action and allowance of the Claims as now presented are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P.


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